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Issue No. 124

February 2010

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published monthly by
Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

WHILE Warrington was transformed into a winter wonderland the whole town was brought to a near standstill as chaos reigned supreme with road gritting and bin collections hot topics on our website.

Golden Square had to close for safety reasons, major retail stores were unable to open as staff were trapped at home and even some banks were closed for business.

While many businesses were back trading within 24 hours most schools closed for the best part of a week.

The problems were made worse by the lack of grit available with many residential roads impassable and even major roads badly affected.

The business community, already battered for the past 12 months by the

recession, took another hammer blow, with the local Chamber of Commerce estimating it had cost the local economy tens of thousands of pounds in lost revenue.

The main gripe from residents bombarding our website was the lack of gritting and the chaos caused to the bin collection service.

While we have to accept that the

snowfall is something we have not witnessed for generations, hopefully lessons have been learned and we can be better prepared in the future.

I am told Warrington Borough Council will have better contingency plans in place should anything like this happen again - lets hope so!

I am sure they have had a enough comments about the state of the roads and bin service to last a life time!



Brothers Millan and Rowan Lad enjoy the snow

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Farewell to airbase stalwart

THE woman who helped mastermind transportation issues at Europe's largest military airbase at Burtonwood, Warrington and became the first British citizen to receive America's highest civilian honour has died aged 87.

Burtonwood Association stalwart Jean Haslam, who for many years was secretary of the organisation set up to keep alive the memory of the base, was in charge of transportation of live ammunition at the American airbase.

During her career, Jean, a retired transport management specialist who worked on the former US Army airbase in the town, was voted the best Transport Management Specialist in the United States Army worldwide.

Jean, who arrived in Warrington in

1942, worked at Ryland Brothers for 15 years as Assistant Traffic Manager during which time she won a competition for writing about transport in the wire industry, which was later published in America. She also became the first woman to be awarded a Fellowship by the Chartered Institute of Transport.

She later went on to spend 15 years as a transport management specialist at the former Burtonwood airbase and was responsible for five depots in the UK. Her duties involved

interpreting transport law, which included the transportation of live ammunition.

Due to her skills and knowledge she was flown out to Los Angeles to collect her award for the best Transport Management Specialist in the US Army.

She was also awarded the Commander's Medal - the highest award for a civilian - the first woman and British citizen to receive the award.

During the next 10 years she ran conferences in the UK and Switzerland on light railway systems.

In her retirement she was involved in numerous community initiatives and played a leading role in the Older



Peoples Forum, the Burtonwood Association and the University of the Third Age.

She suffered a stroke 18 months ago and never really recovered.

Flying the flag - Jean pictured at the former airbase where she co-ordinated transport issues.

Women wanted for Race for Life

WARRINGTON women are being urged to enter Cancer Research UK's Race for Life now that entry to the event is officially open.

This year's race will take place on Sunday July 4, at 11am at Arley Hall and Gardens. Organisers hope 2,500 women will put their best feet forward and raise over £133,375 - the target set for this year's race.

Participants will be part of a total of 700,000 women taking part in over 230 events across the UK between May and July hoping to raise a total of £60 million to fund the charity's life saving work.

The charity is asking Warrington women to recruit their friends, family

and colleagues and share amazing moments as they become part of the biggest female-only team in the UK.

All women are welcome, regardless of whether they are taking part on their own or as part of a group. Women of all ages and fitness abilities join together to walk, jog or run 5k to help beat cancer.

Hannah Thomas, Cancer Research UK's North West Events Manager, said: "This year Cancer Research UK's Race for Life is going to be full of amazing moments for everyone - from lining up at the start, side-by-side with thousands of other women, to reading the inspirational 'back-signs' worn by participants to the fantastic

sense of achievement from crossing the finish line."

Cancer Research UK funds world-class research and clinical trials throughout the North West. Cancer Research UK spent over £19.5 million in the region last year on a wide range of research into children's and adult cancers. Much of this funding goes towards the pioneering work of the doctors and scientists at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research.

Women can enter Cancer Research UK's Race for Life at www.raceforlife.org or by calling 0871 641 1111.

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Follow Through

AS I write this column, the snow remains thick on the ground, and we seem to have come to terms with the winter blanket and its temporary disruption to our lives, and however disruptive it may be at the moment, in time it will melt away to nothing more than a memory. Personally I will remember the cold snap for quite a few reasons. One of the most memorable was watching young children and early teens lying in the snow waving their arms up and down leaving 'snow angel' impressions.

On my regular morning walks, I saw the works of numerous young hands making snowmen, many of which I expect to see for some time after most of the snow has vanished. I will remember the wonderful clear blue morning sky with multiple shades of blue stretching from horizon to horizon. Also the hoarfrost contribution to the snow giving it a greater sparkle in the early morning sunshine. These and many other memories I will cherish. I will choose not to recall the untreated roads and footpaths or the few maniac drivers who presumably forgot the freezing conditions outside once they were warm and comfortable in their

cars. Good memories indeed. For some if not many readers, their New Year resolutions may well be memories too. I wonder how many people made them and simply failed in keeping them. Statistics show many people will have failed by the end of January, but why?

I have my own theories. Let us take dieting for example. The word dieting is synonymous with denial. Who wants to be denied the things we crave or desire? The vast majority of people who want to lose weight and use the word diet, when they mean weight loss will fail, because our association with the word diet is negative. Regular readers will be aware of my thoughts on the power of words and thought patterns, and how we need to harness positive association with words to be successful.

One of the things we need to be successful is the follow through. We have to follow through on the thought, action or belief to make it happen. If we decide to lose weight, stop smoking, learn to drive, build a business, get a new job, or go for an interview, these and literally everything else needs the follow through to be

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achieved. If the idea was good enough to begin an action follow it through or else be prepared to fail, it's that simple. If you don't know how to do what you want, find someone who can help you. Remember that fear is temporary, but regret is forever. New changes might seem fearful initially, but we can very soon become familiar with new thoughts, feelings and situations.

If you want to change and do something new, different, and better or more rewarding we have to recognise the importance of the follow through. And that means, once you have made your decision, do something about it. If you want to stop smoking or lose weight, make the appointment, if you want that new job or promotion, send in the application form. Not following through on your ideas and decisions is self sabotaging and that might be something worth remembering. A whole new positive perspective filled with hope and new beginnings can be yours simply by following through.

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Record breaking fund-raisers

IT has been a record breaking year at Warrington Golf Club - and three charities have benefited to the tune of £13,500!

Three cheques were presented at the club - £4000 each to St Rocco's Hospice and Barnardo's North West and a staggering £5,500 to Leukaemia Research - and three of the original Calendar Girls where there too!

It represents a wonderful twelve months for the club captains - Peter Davies and Liz Hatton - who chose their charities at the start of the year.

Said Captain Davies "It has been a fantastic effort from all sections of our membership.

"We have held various charity functions from Sportsmen's Dinners... to raffles throughout 2009 and the amount raised is absolutely amazing for a club of this size. It's a tribute to the generosity of all of our members."

The Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington Cllr and Mrs Brian Axcell were on hand to see the cheques safely handed over, and the Mayor commented that he has been amazed by the amount of charity work done by so many organisations in the town this year as he thanked Warrington Golf Club for their contribution.

"Considering we are in the middle of a credit crunch it's incredible that they have raised so much money for these three worthy causes.

"I hope that they can keep things going in 2010," he added.

The three Calendar Girls - Angela Knowles, Ros Fawcett and Beryl Bamforth were the stars of the afternoon proceedings.

Angela - who was portrayed in the

award winning film by Julie Walters - revealed that the girls had raised in excess of £2million for Leukaemia Research in the ten years since they were photographed as members of the Womens Institute for a racy calendar that brought them world wide fame.

Commemorative "Ten Years On" calendars for 2010 were on sale at the event.

Angela added "When we started out the survival rate among people

who develop Leukaemia was one in ten... we have got that figure up now to nine in ten.

"Our work continues as we would like to make the survival rate ten out of ten and we are grateful to the Warrington Golf Club for their generosity.

"I know that we... and the other two charities... will put this money to very good use."

Sky Sports presenter Eddie Hemmings was on hand to present the donations along with the Mayor and Mayoress.



The Mayor and Mayoress presenting cheques to Beth Eccles and Katrina Bury of St. Rocco's, Kate Boardman of Barnardos and Calendar Girls for Leukaemia Research Angela Baker, Ros Fawcett and Beryl Bamforth. Also pictured are Lady Captain Liz Hatton and Club Captain Peter Davies



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Ramada Encore Warrington – 1 year old!

THE Ramada Encore Warrington is celebrating its 1st birthday.

The 3 star hotel situated on Aston Avenue on Birchwood Business Park has had an extremely successful first year, welcoming new guests, clients, local residents and even Tory leader David Cameron.

This year the hotel is launching its new menu, business lunch and new weekend packages. With two meeting rooms to cater for conference

needs and even private dining, the hotel is ideal for any occasion.

In order to celebrate its first birthday the hotel is offering a great weekend deal during January and February. Book for any Friday or Saturday night and get 25% off all food and beverage during your stay.

To book call 01925 847 050 and quote 'BIRTHDAY'.



Business breakfast at school

LOCAL business people are being invited to a 'business breakfast' at Warrington's Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School.

The networking breakfast will be at the school on March 18, starting at 7.15am and the main speaker will be headteacher John Sharples, who will speak on "BSF - Building Schools for the Future." The meeting will finish between 8.30-8.45am.

Mr Sharples will speak on how the school aims to create a learning environment which inspires all young people to unlock hidden talents and reach their full potential; provide teachers with 21st century work places; and provide access to facilities which can be used by members of the local community.

Membership and breakfast are free and the school will endeavour to put businesses in touch with any business or educational opportunities that may be mutually beneficial.

Further information is available from Jackie Fletcher, jfletcher@boteler.org.uk or by calling 01925 636414.

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Are you looking for more business?

IT is 2010 and most business's rely on the most up to date technology to market their wares.

We have digital print, websites, e-mail marketing campaigns, text messaging and many other forms of advertising some of us don't even understand. With all these new ways to market out business, sell our products and services, most of us have forgotten the oldest form of advertising that there is.

Imagine a few hundred years ago when hardly anyone could read or write there was no print, TV, radio and certainly no world wide web, how did people promote their business then?

What they used to do was talk to people or use 'word of mouth' marketing a somewhat lost art form. I am not saying that we should forget about all those other forms of marketing because we need them but just look at 'word of mouth' marketing for a little while and see if it is still a valuable tool in today's working culture.

How often do you get a personal recommendation or referred to a new client? It might be very often it might not be often at all. Most of the time when you are personally referred to a new client you will get the job. The person that you meet is not just browsing they are in the market for your products or services. They will probably have a good idea of what you charge, so there is not

usually a price issue. The work that you get will be similar to the one you have just done so probably good quality work, which is what you are looking for. Best of all it cost you nothing to get. So it looks like personal recommendations are still of value.

But do you have a system to make referrals happen?

You could build up a network of people to refer you to their clients? But where would you start?

You could develop a referral reward scheme? But what would you offer as a reward?

Or you could join an existing business network like BNI (Business Network International)

BNI is a 25 year old organisation that helps local business people develop a referral network so they can get a constant flow of referred business.

With over 5,291 active chapters, and 111,733 members, it is the most successful business referral organisation in the world.

Belonging to BNI is like having dozens of sales people working for you because all the other members carry copies of your card with them. When they meet someone new that could use your products or services they hand out your card and

personally recommend your services.

In the UK and Ireland alone, there are over 640 BNI Chapters that in 2008 gave over 560,654 referrals, leading to business worth £190m

BNI meetings start at 7am and finish at 8.30am so that they don't interfere with the working day. Professional business people find this very important as they are creating opportunities for themselves while their competition are still asleep. BNI is so successful because of the structured business meetings we only allow one person per profession in each group so that you will not find your competition in the room.

Locally in the Warrington and district area we have groups that meet in Warrington Lymm Daresbury and Frodsham.



If you would be interested in getting more business contact Ewan Sturman at ewan@networkingprofit.co.uk or on 07834 884 237

Jobs boom as Home Office moves in

THE Home Office is opening a major new regional centre at Warrington - bringing many new jobs to the town.

Almost 160,000 square feet of office space will be involved at Birchwood.

The announcement comes after a 15-month search for a suitable site, according to Coun Ian Marks, leader of Warrington Borough Council.

He said the managing director of the property owner at Birchwood had described the move as "an outstanding achievement for all involved" - the Homes and Communities Agency and Warrington Borough Council - particularly during the planning process.

This had been instrumental in the Home Office decision to choose Birchwood, he said.

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Fri 12 Feb	Beoga
Fri 12 Feb	Legends of the Oche
Sat 13 Feb	Hurly Burly
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Kings of Comedy

Unfortunately both Jimmy Carr shows are now completely sold out but if you're quick off the mark you can still bag tickets to see the king of the one-liner and star of BBC1 'Not Going Out' **Tim Vine** on Fri, 5th Feb in his hilarious new show, The Joke-amotoive.

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Sporting Legends of the Darts World

come to Parr Hall on Fri, 12 Feb in Legends of the Oche starring Eric Bristowe, John Lowe, World Champion Keith Deller and SKY TV sport's John Gwynne. Don't miss your chance to see these Legends in action!

Barbara Dickson

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Kids' Craft Activities

Free craft activities suitable for ages 3-12.

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No need to book, just drop in.

Fruity Mask Time: Tuesday 16 February, 10:00am-3:00pm

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Award for rookie PC

A TRAINEE police officer, just two weeks into her training at Warrington, pulled a trapped driver from a burning car, earning a commendation for bravery.

Karina Pritchard was a trainee at the Warrington campus of Chester University and was off duty when she came across the road traffic accident on the A49.

She found an overturned car with a passenger still inside, trapped around the steering column.

After calling emergency services, Karina, along with a lorry driver who had also stopped, noticed a fire start under the bonnet of the car and took the decision to bravely reach into the vehicle to free the woman driver and pull her clear.

Karina said: "It's not something you stop to think about. We had wanted to leave her in position until the emergency services arrived to access the situation, but as soon as I saw the flames I knew we had to get her out.

"I had basic first aid training as I was a Special Constable before choosing to go into policing full-time, but I hadn't had any training to deal

with this particular kind of incident."

Now at the end of the initial six months of her training, she attended the 'passing out' ceremony along with the rest of her peers, and it was there she was presented with the award.



Karina receives her commendation from Assistant Chief Constable Phil Thompson

Question mark over Omega

ANOTHER question mark is hanging over the future of 24,000 new jobs at Warrington's long-awaited £1 billion Omega development - which could now be earmarked for a major housing development.

One of the key development partners, Miller Developments, is sounding out Warrington Borough Council and the North West Development Agency on the idea of building 1,100, mainly executive homes on the former Burtonwood air base site, due to there being no sign of economic recovery for business developments for up to five years!

But the suggestion has concerned business leaders who believe it should remain a flagship strategic employment site for Warrington and the North West.

Colin Daniels, chief executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce is opposed to any housing development on the site.

He said: "What Warrington and the North West Region needs are more permanent jobs and the Omega site, which has been earmarked by the NWDA as a flagship site will at some time in the future provide these much needed jobs.

"The last thing the town needs is 1100 new executive houses."

Steven Broomhead, chief executive of the NWDA, said he would not be supportive of a housing development.

He says he has "positive optimism" and sees "fragile seeds of recovery" with business confidence stronger and although it may take a little longer to achieve, due to the current economic climate, he still expects to see Omega bring "high value" jobs to Warrington and the North West.

But council leader Ian Marks said: "We are looking at the future mix of development at the Omega site, as part of the local development framework planning process. Housing is being considered as part of this process but it is too early to talk about the numbers and type of housing involved."

To see an exclusive interview with Steven Broomhead log on to www.warrington.tv

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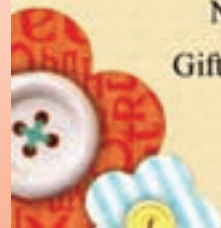
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A SPECIAL charity buffet evening at Warrington's newest Indian restaurant, The Cinnamon Lounge, in Sankey Street, resulted in £425 being raised for St Rocco's Hospice.

The event was well supported - hardly surprising considering the reputation the restaurant is building up for quality Indian cuisine and the warm welcome offered by Naz and his team.

Cinnamon Lounge offers a huge choice of appetisers, starters - vegetarian, non-vegetarian and seafood - and, of course, main courses.

There are Tandoori Specialities, Cinnamon Specials, Chef's Recommendations, traditional curry dishes and, for those who prefer to stick with the familiar, a good range of English dishes, including omelettes, chicken salad, sirloin steak and T-bone steak.

There are also a number of competitively price set meals for two,

four or more people.

We found the Cinnamon Specials particularly interesting.

The Karahi mixed grill was delicious, consisting of chicken tikka, lamb tikka, sheek kebab, tandoori chicken and lamp chops, all combined together to give a mouth watering dish, with onions, garlic and tomatoes with coriander.

Another favourite was Jajjadu - fresh chicken or lamb delicately spiced and cooked with fresh garlic, ginger, onion, green pepper, tomatoes and cresh coriander with a dash of Worcester sauce blended together with a touch of yoghurt.

The Cinnamon Lounge has a good range of wines and beers to complement its wide range of dishes and is certainly worth a visit.



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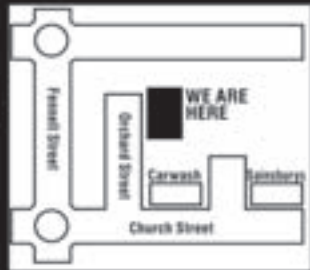
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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Tax return and penalties

BY the time you read this then the January deadline for submitting tax returns without incurring a possible penalty will have passed. As we write, however, we are still involved in getting as many in as possible, so if this column is slightly shorter than normal than please excuse us.

However, we have already identified a number of people in our records who will receive a penalty. Therefore, let's look at who needs to submit a tax return and also look at one big change that will happen, probably in 2011.

Firstly, if you receive a tax return then you must submit it by the due date, and this applies even if your circumstances have changed. If you do not do then then there are a number of implications:

1. You enter the automatic penalty regime. This charges a flat rate penalty of £100 immediately, with a further automatic penalty of £100 in July
2. You invalidate any insurance that you may have against the costs of fighting an investigation into your tax affairs
3. You increase substantially the chance of being so selected

4. And if that is not enough, you will receive an inflated tax demand and tax related penalties, the only defence against which is the submission of the demanded tax return. There is no other way of avoiding charges being put upon your property and possible bankruptcy proceedings.

Secondly, if you do not receive a tax return for completion, and you receive any form of income which is not subject to tax being deducted at source then you are required to inform the tax office so that they can issue a return. You must do this by the end of October following the end of the tax year in which the income was received. If you do not do so then you are again subjected to possible penalties. Additionally, if the income comes from a business then an automatic penalty also applies if you do not inform the tax office within three months of starting the business.

Finally, the change in 2011 (probably). Currently, the penalty for not submitting a tax return by the due date cannot exceed the amount of tax due on 31st January. So if there is no real need for a tax return to be issued because, for



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

instance, you have the correct amount of tax deducted at source then provided you eventually submit a return any penalties will be cancelled. This is unpopular with the taxman because he is involved in work without any reward. Therefore, this limit will be removed, probably in 2011, so that anyone who is issued a return and fails to submit it by the due date will receive a penalty even if no tax is due, and even if there is a tax repayment due.

Remember, if you get a tax return then you must complete it and submit it!

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these matters. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Soup originally meant a piece of bread soaked in liquid and has the same linguistic root as supper. In the 19th century, not all soups have proved popular: according to its detractors, Brown Windsor soup was named after a bar of transparent brown soap.

Butternut Squash, Prawn and Chorizo Risotto – Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 banana shallot (or 2 shallots), finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 300g risotto rice
- 150ml dry white wine
- 1.5litres good quality chicken stock
- 1 small butternut squash, chopped into small dice
- 100g Chorizo, chopped into small dice
- 100g cooked prawns
- 150g Boursin
- Rocket leaves, to garnish

Method:

1. Heat the oil in a large pan and sauté shallots and garlic. After one minute add the rice and cook, stirring for another two minutes or until the rice starts to swell.
2. Add wine and boil, stirring continuously until the liquid has reduced.
3. Add ladles of stock gradually, adding another ladleful only after each addition has been absorbed by the rice.
4. Stir in the butternut squash and cook for a further five minutes or until the squash is tender.
5. Add the Chorizo, prawns and stir in the Boursin. Gently heat through.
6. Divide between four serving plates and garnish with rocket

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NEW FOR 2010 ADULT EDUCATION COURSES



Lowton and Golborne High Schools are once again working in partnership to provide people with an exciting programme of adult education courses starting in the New Year.

**REARRANGED
ENROLMENT**

If you would like to enrol upon any of the courses listed below please come to our rearranged enrolment evening on Thursday 21st January at Lowton High School (Sports Hall) 5.00pm - 7.00pm.

Key to course locations:

- Wigan Play Association to the rear of Golborne Library
- Golborne High School
- Lowton High School
- St. Helens

Course	Day	Time	Duration
An introduction to Holistic Therapy	Monday	10.00am - 12.00pm	10 weeks
An introduction to Sculpting with Clay and other Materials	Tuesday	6.00 - 8.00pm	10 weeks
Emergency First Aid	Tuesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	10 weeks
An introduction to Sign Language	Tuesday	1.00 - 3.00pm	10 weeks
Beginners Salsa/Ballroom and Latin	Tuesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	10 weeks
Computers for Beginners	Tuesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	10 weeks
Beauty Therapy	Tuesday	10.00am - 12.00pm	15 weeks
An introduction to Crystal and Colour Therapy	Tuesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	10 weeks
An introduction to Spirit Appreciation	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	7 weeks
Counselling Concepts (Level 2)	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	15 weeks
Papercrafting	Wednesday	12.30 - 2.30pm	10 weeks
An introduction to Researching your Family Tree	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	8 weeks
Improve your Interview Techniques	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	5 weeks
An introduction to Tiling	Monday	6.30 - 9.30pm	10 hours - 4 consecutive days
An introduction to Plastering	Monday	6.30 - 9.30pm	10 hours - 4 consecutive days
An introduction to Plumbing	Monday	6.30 - 9.30pm	10 hours - 4 consecutive days
An introduction to Painting and Decorating	Monday	6.30 - 9.30pm	10 hours - 4 consecutive days
An introduction to Safeguarding / Child Protection	Saturday	10.00am - 4.00pm	2 consecutive Saturdays
An introduction to Garden Design and seasonal displays	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	10 weeks
Presenting with Impact	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00pm	5 weeks

Course fees

All adult courses have a fee attached. Concessions are available on all courses for those in receipt of a recognised means tested benefit.

The course fees for the non vocational courses are charged at the subsidised rate of £1.25 per hour (e.g. A one hour per week, ten week course would cost £12.50). The only exception is the Counselling Concepts course which is priced at £60 (over weeks are available).

Please note that places cannot be reserved without payment. Payment may be made by cash, cheque or purchase order. If your employer is paying you must provide an official order or authorising letter.

Concessional rates are available for all courses

Depending upon the course a partial reduction in the course fee is available to those who are in receipt of one of the following means tested benefits:

Benefit: Housing Benefit
Evidence: Letter of notification from the benefits office.

Benefit: Income Support
Evidence: Award letter or a recent letter from the benefits office.

Benefit: Working Tax Credit
Evidence: Award letter or a CTC22 with a household income of less than £10,000.

Benefit: Pension Credit
Evidence: Award notice.

Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance
Evidence: Award letter or a recent letter from the benefits office.

Unemployed dependents of an individual in receipt of one or more of the benefits listed above are also entitled to a reduction in the course fee. However, the "dependent" must be listed as a dependent in any benefit award letter.

If you are requesting a concessional fee for a course you must attend in person and bring evidence of your receipt of benefit with you to the enrolment evening.

Sorry but there are no concessions for pensioners



**WIGAN & LEIGH
COLLEGE**



Learning+Skills Council
Greater Manchester



For further information on any of the courses listed please contact Stephen Toole, Director of Community at Lowton High School

Tel: 01942 767040 (selecting option 4)
Email: stephen@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk

For the most up to date information on all our courses please go to www.lowtonhighschool.co.uk